

Approved May 15, 2001.

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**CHAPTER 400**  
**(Senate Bill 567)**

AN ACT concerning

**Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council**

FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council; providing for the purpose of the Council; providing for the composition of the Council and the appointment, compensation, and terms of Council members; requiring the Department of Human Resources to provide certain staff support to the Council; requiring the Council to gather certain information from caregivers through certain methods; requiring the Council to develop and distribute a handbook of certain caregiver services; requiring the Council to review certain caregiver support programs; requiring the Council to develop a model caregiver support program; requiring the Council to coordinate activities of certain caregiver services; requiring the Council to conduct certain research; requiring the Council to report to the General Assembly and the Governor on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council.

BY adding to

Article 88A – Department of Human Resources

Section 129A

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Respite is the occasional, short-term, temporary relief or rest for family caregivers who provide care for children or adults with developmental disabilities, funtional disabilities, challenging behaviors, or age-related disorders and diseases; and

WHEREAS, Supporting the efforts of families and caregivers to care for individuals with special needs at home is efficient, cost effective, and humane; and

WHEREAS, Families receiving occasional caregiver support services are less likely to request institutional care at public expense for an individual with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Caregiver support services reduce family and caregiver stress, enhance family and caregiver coping ability, and strengthen family ability to meet the challenging demands of caring for individuals with special needs; and